Widow wants exhumation to prove author is wrong

By JULIA WALLACE

Staff Writer

The widow of Lee Harvey Oswald said Friday she does not regard the attempt to open Oswald's grave as her crusade and does not want to get into a fight with her brother-in-law over it.

"I'd like to get it done with, so all the questions are answered, but I'm not going to fight or hate him," Marina Oswald Porter said in an interview when asked how she felt about the intervention by Robert Oswald in the plan to open the grave.

"I talked to him about this, and I know he has to do what he feels is right. But this is not really my battle with him," she said.

Mrs. Porter said the real warrior is British author and lawyer Michael Eddowes, who has written a book maintaining that Oswald was kidnaped during a visit to the Soviet Union in 1962 and a Soviet agent was sent to the United States to masquerade as Oswald.

Eddowes has been attempting for more than a year to exhume the body to check the body's height, dental records, and a small piece of bone missing from one ear.

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Marina Oswald Porter

Oswald's widow respects brother-in-law's wishes

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He had sought a court order to exhume the body, but this effort was rejected by the State Court of Civil Appeals on May 15. Then, through his attorney, Eddowes planned a secretive attempt to exhume the body Friday. He received Mrs. Porter's permission last week.

Under state civil law, the widow has the right to exhume a body. Robert Oswald, however, learned of the scheme and filed a lawsuit to halt the exhumation. His attorney, William McKenzie, said Robert has some rights to the body because he purchased the plot and paid the cemetery.

Judge James Wright will hear the case Friday, but the director of the Texas State Funeral Directors Association, Ed McGuire, said there is no doubt the widow can do what she wants.

"It's up to her. I don't know what the brother or anyone else can do. I think the temporary order was issued just so everything can be clarified," McGuire said.

The widow said she would like the body exhumed just to prove that Eddowes is wrong. "By agreeing to this, I called his bluff," she said.

She explained that although she is not close to Robert Oswald, she respects him and does not want a bitter fight.

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